

Federal Communications Commission
ATTN: Chairman Michael Powell
or Successor
445 12th Street SW
Washington D.C. 20554

Colorado Public Utilities Commission
ATTN: Chairman Gregory Sopkin
1580 Logan Street, Suite #740
Denver, CO 80203

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FCC - MAILROOM

CC
~~100~~ Docket No. 01-338

Dear Sirs:

I am a concerned citizen of Colorado. I receive my local telephone service from a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC). I have received better value and customer service than I was ever able to receive prior to having a competitive choice in local telecommunications service providers. Competition has reduced costs, increased customer service and benefitted the consumer tremendously.

The recent **FCC TRO Remand Order** the FCC released has set competition back 10 years in the eyes of the consumer. As a result of your actions, my phone rates are going up no matter where I go. Rates have increased through both my competitive carrier and through the incumbent carrier (Qwest) as a result of your actions. As a result I am left with higher costs and fewer choices for my telecom services.

For the vast majority of American consumers, there is no viable alternative to a landline phone using legacy, copper wire phone networks. And as Bell giant SBC (co-owner with BellSouth of Cingular Wireless) itself admits, wireless phones are not yet a substitute for landline.

Competition and choice are decreasing as a result of this Administration's FCC TRO Remand Order: Unless the FCC and PUC act to ensure a competitive marketplace, prices to consumers will continue to go up and quickly. Competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) need access to the monopoly owned lines, leased by the Bell companies, to deliver phone and Internet services to residential and business customers. But without FCC action, the Bells will be able to leverage their unregulated monopoly control to raise these rates.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996, which passed with overwhelming Republican and Democratic support, envisioned an active FCC role in supporting competitive access to the phone networks. The FCC must rise to meet this challenge. Specifically, the FCC must take action that reaffirms that it will not sit idly by while jobs are lost, prices rise and four phone monopolies undo the progress of the past five years.

We believe the FCC's position will have a devastating effect on competition. We do not need large phone companies. We need more small companies like Liberty Bell Telecom that listen to our needs and provide more choices.

Sincerely,

Charles I. Strickland 2.24.05

Charles I. Strickland

A concerned telecom consumer, taxpayer and voter

Charles I. Strickland
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Denver CO 80209-4525

